



**NATIONAL
FIRE
SPRINKLER
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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September 2, 2004

John B. Larson, Member of Congress
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Larson:

SEP 13 2004

Let me applaud you for your proactive initiative in introducing H.R. 4967 the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act of 2004. It is appalling that almost 30% of the 17,000 nursing homes in this country lack automatic fire sprinkler systems. Unfortunately, the terrible loss of life in both the Hartford and Nashville fires underscore the need for some type of Federal initiative that also provides a financial incentive to have these homes protected from fire by a premier first line of defense life-saving device such as automatic fire sprinkler systems. Our Association will provide you and any member of your staff with as much support as we can in seeing this bill to its successful conclusion. Our Director of Public Fire Protection, Jim Dalton, is aware of this bill's introduction and its critical importance to the fire safety for our nation's elderly. I am hopeful that on my next trip to the Capital we will have time to discuss any further steps that need our mutual attention to help move this bill forward.

Cordially yours,

John A. Viniello
President

CC: Russell P. Fleming, NFSA Executive Vice President
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JAV/mr